



**Speaker's Annual Report to Dharriwaa Elders Group ("DEG") members for 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018.** Project Manager Wendy Spencer.

## Members News

From 1 July 2017 – 13 December 2017 the following Elders Councillors presided: Speaker: Clem Dodd, Secretary: Virginia Robinson, Elders Councillors: Gladys Walford, Violet Morgan, Leigh Leslie, Paul Winters, Lewis Beale. At the 13 December 2017 AGM the following were elected: Speaker: Clem Dodd. Secretary: Virginia Robinson, Treasurer: Richard Lake. Elders Councillors: Gladys Walford, Violet Morgan, Elizabeth Peters, Lewis Beale. Ruth McCausland remained as Non-Full Member Director. During the period DEG's Elders Council secretariat prepared and held meetings 4 August 2017, 26 September 2017, 24 November 2017, 6 November 2017, 24 Nov 2017, 31 January 2018, 9 March 2018, 30 March 2018, 27 April 2018, 25 May 2018, 29 June 2018. DEG contributed food vouchers to 14 families for Walgett funerals during the period.

## Representation

**Walgett Gamilaraay Aboriginal Community Working Party.** Chairperson Christine Corby OAM resigned her role 3 July 2017, with the support of the WGACWP members. In early 2018 she invited the Chair of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly to meet with WGACWP members to discuss how the MPRA could support WGACWP participation in the MPRA, and explain the benefits / responsibilities of membership of the MPRA. This did not occur. Dharriwaa Elders Group wrote to the Chair of the MPRA, inviting him to Walgett in early June 2018 to explain to WGACWP members how the MPRA and Local Decisionmaking will support the work of our organisations in Walgett. This did not occur. The members continue to progress their work.

**Narran Lakes Co-Management Committee.** Virginia Robinson represented the Dharriwaa Elders Group on this committee, which was managed by changing staff and contractors of the Office of Environment and Heritage. Her reports were made as regular agenda items of DEG meetings and correspondence and business arising were addressed when DEG delegates were made aware of the Committee's business.

**CASE.** Dharriwaa Elders Group's delegate Wendy Spencer, assisted the other directors of Computing Assistance, Support and Education Inc ("CASE") to wind down by end of June 2017. DEG always received a high quality of service from the sys-admin level expertise of CASE members who continue providing DEG IT support directly. DEG understands the value of robust open source systems that require rare troubleshooting. DEG also valued the quality advice provided by skilled IT knowledge holders. DEG gratefully received a server and phone systems after the recipient of the wound-down CASE assets, VISE <<https://www.jsaxon.org/pc/VISE/vise.htm>>, wound down after CASE.

**ACHAA.** Virginia Robinson, Clem Dodd and Wendy Spencer represented DEG in its role as a committee member of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Arts Association (ACHAA), attending meetings by phone from Walgett. In October 2017 DEG attended ACHAA's Conference in western Sydney.

We share highlights of our work during 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018 in the following pages of this report.



DEG attended the launch of ACHAA's group exhibition "From Our Place" and attended the annual ACHAA conference at Muru Mittigar in October 2017. ACHAA provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss and create together a stronger future for NSW Aboriginal cultural organisations.



Left: Marika Duczynski and Monica Galassi - SLNSW Indigenous Unit, with DEG's reading banner that featured in ACHAA's travelling exhibition "From Our Place".



Left: ACHAA members and valued ACHAA facilitators Steve Miller and Melissa Abraham from Museums and Galleries NSW at the 2017 AGM. Full members are Aboriginal community controlled NSW arts, cultural and keeping places.



## ACHAA – DEG's NSW peak organisation

29 March 2018 DEG delivered safely items that Bourke's Muda Aboriginal Corporation had included in the ACHAA travelling exhibition "From Our Place". Muda, DEG, and other ACHAA members used the exhibition to introduce their association, formed in 2014 to support Aboriginal cultural and artists' organisations. The exhibition, with assistance from Create NSW, has been seen in Deniliquin's [Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge centre](#), Windsor's [Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre](#), and Temora's Museum. Left: Muda's Dot Martin is seen at left signing off on our safe delivery.





Above left: On the 2 August 2017 DEG convened a meeting with Walgett AMS CEO, Council CEO and Walgett undertakers Fords Funerals to discuss upgrading the Walgett Cemetery, planned by Dharriwaa Elders Group for over 10 years. We identified a NSW Stronger Country Communities Infrastructure funding opportunity and convened the stakeholders including the WLALC and churches again on 8 August 2017 to finalise the proposal which we later learnt was successful.



Left: The family of Jenny Wright, one of NSW first Aboriginal Education Assistants, and much missed DEG member, at the ceremony to celebrate the naming of Walgett's netball courts in her honour, 8 August 201. Jenny Wright with family & friends in the primary school established the annual netball carnival attended by teams from the region.

Elders' civic  
contributions to  
Walgett

Throughout the year DEG worked with the assistance of the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO NSW) to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (including ACH environmental) matters.

We are proud to report that DEG's Virginia Robinson was nominated by the EDO NSW for an Aboriginal Justice Award in recognition of her testimony in the Land and Environment Court that created a precedent for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage to be considered by the Land & Environment Court when determining mining Access Management Plans.

EDO NSW newsletter: *"We're very pleased that Auntie Virginia Robinson of Dharriwaa Elders Group in Walgett has been named as a nominee for the Law and Justice Foundation Aboriginal Justice Award for her achievements in protecting culture and heritage. We've been working in partnership with Auntie Virginia and Dharriwaa Elders Group to protect and promote culture and heritage since 2012. The award recognises outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW. Dharriwaa Elders Group is a vibrant grassroots organisation made up of Aboriginal people aged over 60 that aims to support Aboriginal elders to resume leadership roles in the community, help them stay active and healthy, promote local Aboriginal cultural knowledge and identity and develop the Walgett Aboriginal community."*

The work required to affectively advocate for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is unforgiving. It is not supported financially and so those colleagues and friends we meet during this work we know are truly devoted to working hard for our cause. It is a pleasure enjoying rare opportunities to celebrate progress with them.



## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and environmental management

At the 2017 NSW Justice Awards dinner  
Above: Virginia Robinson with EDO NSW lawyer Ross McKay. Left: Clem Dodd with EDONSW CEO Sue Higginson. DEG highly values the work of EDO NSW and the assistance they have provided us over the years.





Left: DEG convened a meeting 15/12/2017 with Walgett landholder and Chair of the North West Local Land Service Conrad Bolton and Sgt. Bruce Gregory re the previous weekend's incident on the Barwon River whereby access was denied to the river to a Walgett family and the police were called. An arrangement was negotiated to prevent future trespassing charges occurring. In the process a cordial relationship was established which the DEG looks forward to building upon in the future. Below: DEG convened a community meeting 16/12/2017 to share information about the temporary access arrangement. Walgett LALC offered to pursue permanent rights of access and DEG will assist them in this aim.

Cultural  
mainten  
ance



DEG began this year its “Elders Knowledge Sharing” activity funded through end-of-financial year discretionary funds found by Dept. of Prime Minister and Cabinet. At left is a photo of one of the sessions held 15 September 2017. DEG has a responsibility to pass on knowledge shared within the organisation over the years, so that Elders now and in the future will provide a cultural knowledge and maintenance capability. Many future Walgett wellbeing projects and activities for community members of all ages will require cultural knowledge workers. DEG is very conscious of the fragility of the sustainability of culturally-led programs DEG is developing now. We know governments and community will value this community asset sometime in the future. Until then we must persevere as best we can. It’s fun too!



Left: 15 August 2017 DEG resumed work with NSW OEH pursuing the gazettal of an Aboriginal Place nomination for Dungaleear made in 2002 under NSW NPWS Act. As usual the under-resourcing of Aboriginal Heritage by the NSW Government delays this work.

## Cultural maintenance

Above: recent landclearing near Walgett. DEG made an urgent appeal 17 August 2017 to NSW & Commonwealth Ministers for Environment to defer new NSW landclearing laws  
<http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/FinalDEGtoNSWMMinisterGabrielleUpton17August2017.pdf>

Photos below left and right: DEG resumed work thinking about how the NSW Govt could truly support Aboriginal communities like Walgett to manage their Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. DEG had attended 2 workshops in previous years to discuss. We drove to Narrabri to attend a workshop with NSW OEH and other communities 27 October 2017. DEG then held its own workshops 28 March, 12 April and 17 April 2018. On the 18 April 2018 DEG made its submission saying "Walgett's Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) asks that the architects of the proposed ACH legislation consider their task very carefully. We hope this submission shows that a better way for the NSW Government to support Aboriginal communities' ACH to flourish is achievable".  
<http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/DEGSubApril2018final.pdf>







Above left: Dharriwaa Elders Group 19 February 2018 with Nada Dukic, the interim Executive Principal of Walgett Community College who began work in Walgett two weeks earlier. DEG formally welcomed her to Walgett and briefed her about ways Elders and their organisation might work with Walgett's Connected Community School in the future. Elders also spoke of their hopes for the improvement of education outcomes from the school. Above: On 12 Dec 2017 Shanna Satya, Bill Dickens, Scott Hawkins and Kieran Shipp from Legal Aid NSW met DEG during their review to provide better access to justice for our community. DEG is grateful for the support of Legal Aid NSW in our work. They assisted Elders making Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme claims and provided advice about Funeral Funds and insurance schemes, during the year.



Left: DEG's Clem Dodd, Gladys Walford, & Christine Corby OAM after meeting Mark Coulton MP 25 July 2017. Power costs, service mapping, jobs, health, justice were discussed.

## Advocacy for community development



Above: DEG's Vanessa Hickey & Kim Sullivan with @statelibrarynsw KirstenThorpe Aug 2017 learning research strategies for DEG's healing effort.

14 December 2017 DEG hosted a Skype session with the AIATSIS Family History Unit – linking up families.

## Healing



Dharriwaa Elders Group hosted an information session July 2018 for Elders and the community to learn about the NSW Government's Response to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Reparations for the Stolen Generations. A representative from NSW Office of Aboriginal Affairs provided some information. Later, in the comfort of the Elders Centre, Legal Aid NSW lawyers assisted Elders to begin their claims.



Left: 24 February 2018 DEG hosted a visit from anthropologist researchers Michele Walters and Jitendra Kumerage from the Queensland South Native Title Services <http://www.qsnts.com.au/>. We arranged for them to meet with members of Walgett families that they haven't yet met with on previous trips, regarding the (Qld) Yuwaalaraay People's and Gamilaraay People's Native Title Applications. We used the opportunity to learn more about links of Walgett Yuwaalaraay and Gamilaraay families to mob in Qld.





Above: DEG and Walgett AMS organized a talk prepared by Dr Vivienne Cebola – WAMS GP who is a nutrition specialist, 16 November 2017. We learnt the latest science regarding food, the gut and impacts on our wellbeing. Awareness of how important food quality is became apparent.

**Drug and Alcohol services**  
**RivMed shares its model**

Aboriginal Health Worker Kurt Simpson has been invited to explain the service he offers Aboriginal clients living in Wagga Wagga on their journeys away from addiction.

**STOP PRESS!!**

Dr Graeme Judson, Addiction Specialist for Walgett AMS team will also be attending to provide latest information re addiction, its impacts and therapeutic treatments

**Would Walgett benefit from this model?**

7pm Thursday 14 September 2017  
**COMMUNITY HUB - HIGH SCHOOL WALGETT**

Presented by Dharriwaa Elders Group & Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service

**Food as Medicine**

WAMS Dr Vivienne Cebola will talk on the role of diet and nutrition in mental health

**LUNCH PROVIDED**  
 12 noon Thursday 16 November 2017  
**COMMUNITY HUB - HIGH SCHOOL WALGETT**

Presented by Dharriwaa Elders Group & Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service

Left: DEG and Walgett AMS organised a discussion 14 September 2017 with Addiction Specialist Dr Graeme Judson & Aboriginal Health Worker Kurt Simpson, who had travelled from Wagga Wagga's Rivmed to share information about his new program with drug and alcohol clients. It followed a packed session during the day with WAMS staff. DEG has grabbed the opportunity offered by the Connected Community School to regularly use its "Community Hub" facility. It was designed for this.

## Information sharing



9 May 2018 Yuwaya Ngarra-li's Sydney Project Manager Peta MacGillivray gave a talk about her recent trip to a graduation of Indian law students from Arizona State University, and Indian community. She presented a mug and graduation blanket to Lewis Beale on behalf of the DEG.







In September 2017, DEG wrote to the NSW Minister and Shadow Minister for Water, attaching this photo taken of the Namoi River upstream of Walgett. "The Dharriwaa Elders Group would appreciate an explanation as to why the river is completely dry yet the website at NSW Water says that the height was ".20" on Friday 22/9/17. Also please explain why there is no water in the Namoi River flowing past Goangra (upstream of our community). The Dharriwaa Elders Group is very concerned".

DEG organised 10 April 2018 a meeting for the Department of Industry Water which stated it "would like to consult with First Nations People and Traditional Owners for water planning within the Murray Darling Basin to enable a better understanding of First Nations people's values and uses in regards to water".

## Water learning and advocacy

### Walgett's Drinking Water

**Current information will be given on**  
*chlorination, fluoridation, tankwater,  
 testing of town water, the importance  
 of drinking water.*

**Information will be presented by:**  
 Jason Harwood, Environmental Health Officer, Far West Public Health  
 Priscilla Stanley, Manager Health Protection Unit, Western Local Health District  
 Sandy Leask, Senior Policy Advisor, Water Unit, NSW Health  
 and others yet to be confirmed.

**10am Thursday 19 April 2018**  
**COMMUNITY HUB - HIGH SCHOOL WALGETT**

**DHARRIWAA ELDERS GROUP** **COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT** **UNSW**



19 April 2018 NSW Health workers responsible for our drinking water, and public health, were invited by DEG to give information about the health of Walgett's drinking water. We learnt that a retired Sydney Water engineer has been engaged to work alongside and mentor Walgett Council water infrastructure staff, and eventually it is hoped that fluoridation will occur once more than two Council employees are appropriately trained. We were assured that Council is regularly monitoring and reporting water quality, and when there is a problem, informing & advising the community when there is a health risk. Testing for pesticides was to begin May. Sandy Leask from the NSW Health Water Unit stated he is confident Walgett's water is safe to drink. The use of chlorine and other filtering was explained, as were many other water infrastructure matters. Speakers included: Jason Harwood, Environmental Health Officer, Far West Public Health; Priscilla Stanley, Manager Health Protection Unit, Western Local Health District; Sandy Leask, Senior Policy Advisor, Water Unit, NSW Health.





Above: 15 May 2018 Vanessa Hickey gave her first media interview for DEG to ABC Western Plain's Lucy Thakray. She stressed how important the rivers are to Walgett.



Above: DEG screened Cultivating Murder 29 September 2017.



Above: 11 January 2018 Dan Lanzini met with Vanessa Hickey, Richard Lake, Lewis Beale, Doug Darwin and DEG Chair Clem Dodd to talk about Coal Seam Gas mining in the nearby Pilliga Forest – another issue concerning DEG members. Below: ABC's Melanie Pearce interviewed April Crawford Smith from The Valley Centre about discussions DEG conducted in July 2017 re plans for Walgett Aboriginal solar homes & community organisations.

Dharriwaa Elders Group amu, in na na na na  
a na-na-na-na-na gift recipient  
Email: [feedback@nsw.gov.au](mailto:feedback@nsw.gov.au)  
Post: Local Land Services, State Operations  
PO Box 2205, Walgett NSW 2891

## Feedback to the NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Review

Submission by Dharriwaa Elders Group, Walgett, 7 July 2017.



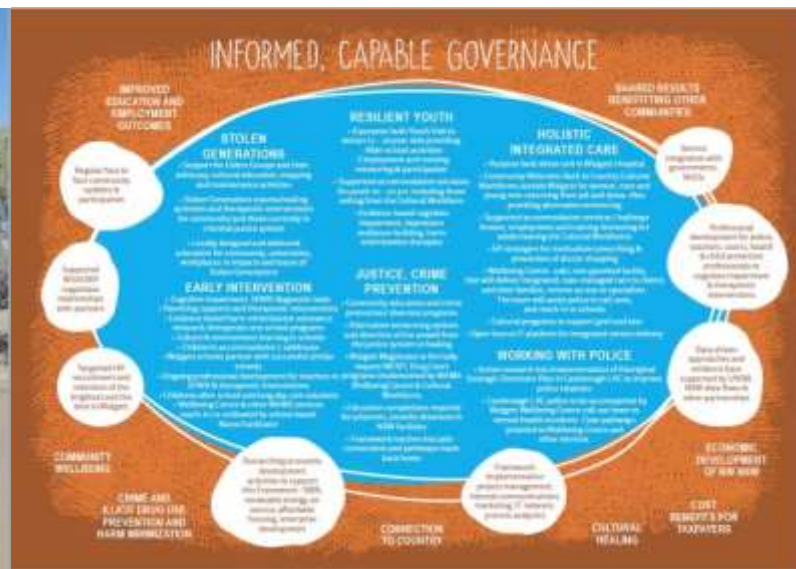
Above left: Two Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) staff including Kim Sullivan (pictured above right) to trial the use of fixed wing aerial surveys to map Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values of Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) in 2016. DEG believes that the value of TSRs must be assessed so that appropriate decisions can be made about their future management.

## Wellbeing advocacy

Left: Dharriwaa Elders Group provided further advice to the NSW Government on 7 July 2017 in its submission "Feedback to the NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Review". The management of travelling stock reserves is very important for the DEG, particularly as these crown lands that are so important for maintaining biodiversity and Aboriginal Cultural Values are increasingly under threat.

<http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/FinalsubTSRReviewJuly2017.pdf>





## Advocacy for Walgett wellbeing

Another important advocacy activity undertaken by the DEG was our advancement of the Walgett Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework – “Moving Forward to Healthy Communities” which provided the base for Yuwaya Ngarra-li’s work in Walgett.



On the 9 May 2018 colleague Norm Henderson (Manager of the Western PHN Aboriginal Hub project, and formerly Manager of Orana Haven Aboriginal Corporation residential AOD rehabilitation service) represented DEG at the Dubbo hearings of the NSW Inquiry into Drug Rehabilitation Services in regional, rural and remote NSW. He emphasized the community-led initiatives the Walgett Aboriginal community propose to save lives and government resources. He brought to the committee's attention that they are considering the future wellbeing of many children and families, often forgotten, who are impacted by addictions in western NSW, and that we are asking them to devote serious resources so that more jails and police will not be required. DEG made this submission 8/12/17 to the NSW Parliament's Inquiry:  
<http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/DEGsubmissionontoNSWParliamentEnquiry8Dec2017.pdf>



DEG hosted the Walgett Youth Justice Forum with UNSW (through our Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership) in mid-March 2018. The Dharriwaa Elders Group deeply values working with and supporting young people in their community and has great concerns about the risk of them ending up in the justice system rather than in education and employment and thriving in their community. Virginia Robinson, Secretary of the Dharriwaa Elders Group opened the Forum saying: 'We love our young people. We cry out for compassion, we cry out for change. We don't want our young people to go to gaol; there's no love in gaol ... They come out of custody with a myriad of problems, some of them irreparable. We want you all to work with us for positive, lasting change for our young people, our futures.' Dr Ruth McCausland, Yuwaya Ngarra-li Director of Evaluation and Research prepared a brief regarding Walgett children and young people and the justice system, for the Forum participants. We realised that for the first time we were seeing the evidence about what is happening to our children. Youth, community and legal experts presented during the Forum which was skilfully facilitated by Yuwaya Ngarra-li's academic lead Eileen Baldry. Read our full report here: <http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/Walgett-Youth-Justice-Forum-Report-June18.pdf>





11 May 2018 DEG in its partnership with the UNSW - Yuwaya Ngarrali, held one of a series of community meetings to discuss and create the Yuwaya Ngarra-li Action Plan for Walgett's Children and Young People. Meetings with children, their caregivers and young people continued in the following weeks. Below: 9 May 2018 Post Netball hangouts at the DEG Centre with our 8-12 year old rep group, talking about all the good things we want to build in Walgett. Many thanks to all who spent time on Saturday morning to contribute - including Peta MacGillivray, Vanessa Hickey and May Miller Dawkins.







Throughout May 2018, Yuwaya Ngarra-li met with key Walgett services to create the Action Plan for Children and Young People. For example, above left: on 17 May we conducted a meeting with Commander Greg Moore and Detective Inspector Paul Stephens with WAMS CEO Chris Corby on the phone. Above centre: On the 7 May the team met to discuss a draft of the Plan with Jodie Ann Hunt from REDI Ltd (previously MPREC) who works for the Remote School Attendance program and volunteers at the Walgett PCYC. Above right: Coolibah Kids (early childhood) Fiona Baker gave her input, as did (below left) Brianna Dennis, Sarah McBride and Mary Purse of the Walgett Mackillop Family Services (with DEGs Kim Sullivan and Yuwaya Ngarrali's Leonie Mason, and Jodie Watts, Director Koolyangarra Pre School (below right).



For those keen on a further read, our team offered information about where we are up to with our Yuwaya Ngarra-li work in a detailed piece crafted by team member Dr Ruth McCausland, published 6 June 2018 by Croakey <https://croakey.org/dharriwaa-elders-group-launches-a-vision-for-young-people-in-walgett/>







Above: 6 June 2018 the Dharriwaa Elders Group / University of NSW Yuwaya Ngarra-li partnership launched our Action Plan for Children and Young People. “We are determined to make change so that our children have better futures”.

Launch statement: [www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/Walgett-Action-Plan-Launch-Statement.pdf](http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/Walgett-Action-Plan-Launch-Statement.pdf).

Action Plan: <http://www.dharriwaaeldersgroup.org.au/images/downloads/Walgett-Action-Plan-for-Children-and-Young-People-June18.pdf>.

“ Our vision is that Aboriginal children and young people in Walgett can learn, work, be safe, supported and thrive within a robust sense of belonging to their families, community, culture and country. ”





Left: In March 2018, during one of the team's Sydney reflection and planning sessions, we took the time to meet with Danny Lester and Inara Walden of NSW Ombudsman's Office, to keep them in the loop with our work, and aske their advice, particularly re strategy regarding achieving support from key NSW agencies and policymakers. Their input is always valued by DEG.



Above: YN team met with staff from Walgett Hospital in May 2018 checking the content of the draft Action Plan for Children & Young People. Left: Ruth McCausland Yuwaya Ngarra-li's director of Research and Evaluation, with UNSW Smart Centre January2018. Through the year we regularly met with the Sm@rt Centre to plan a new social enterprise for Walgett – a waste factory to make engineered stone panels like the example at left. Below: Our YN team developing relationships with Photovoltaic Engineers, water law and groundwater experts and Speaker Clem Dodd and the Sm@rt Centre scientists.



## Dharriwaa Elders Group sustainability

DEG staff (part-time and casual) this year were Kim Sullivan, Vanessa Hickey, Wendy Spencer, Leonie Mason, Clem Dodd, Virginia Robinson.

Efforts to build the capacity of the Dharriwaa Elders Group (an Aboriginal Walgett community cultural organization of 18 years standing) were continued during the period. Services the DEG offers to governments and external NGOs now attract fees. During the period the DEG began to deter timewasters and negative influences and became stronger in rejecting advances from entities who want to use DEG's assets but do not serve DEG's priorities or enhance DEG's capabilities. We also became stronger in controlling the way research is conducted in Walgett, and continuing to assert community sovereignty over its own data. The wellbeing of our members and safety of staff remains our highest priority and the skill in providing a safe meeting place and harmony amongst Elders and their visitors has become an increasing challenge in our troubled community.

The Dharriwaa Elders Group was supported financially or in kind by:

- a. Leading and providing services to the Yuwaya Ngarrali project – DEG's partnership with University of NSW
- b. The Commonwealth Government through the CHSP program of the Dept. of Health for Social Support and related Transport, and discretionary end-of-financial year funds for 2 x small projects from Dept. Prime Minister and Cabinet Indigenous Advancement Strategy
- c. Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers, Environmental Defenders Office, Darrell Burkey, Ian Urquart and Andrew Tridgell; Heuristic Video Pty Ltd; Steven Davies and Indigenous Community Volunteers; Dr Ruth McCausland, Prof. Eileen Baldry from UNSW.

DEG directors are determined to develop DEG's fundraising and social enterprise activities, and continued to develop relationships with the private sector to continue DEG's valuable culturally-led community development activities.

Staff undertook training in case management documentation, and a suite of community development theory of change mapping, reflection, analysis and documentation methods.

DEG continued acting as banker for Aboriginal Women of Walgett ("AWOW") during the period.



Left: DEG was thrilled to win the Pro Bono Partnership Award at the 2017 NSW Justice Awards with the ALS Moree and long-term partners at Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers Pro Bono team 19 Oct 2017. The work that the award was given for continues. We enjoyed the dinner at Parliament House and the chance to catch up with our hardworking Sydney legal colleagues. The Speaker, Secretary & Project Manager who attended treated it as a reward for our other justice work as well. Wendy relished the opportunity to remind the legal industry of DEG founder George Rose's impact and the important work awaiting them in remote NSW to protect the environment and improve lives.





Left: On 24 February 2018 Superintendent Greg Moore, new to serving Walgett, was welcomed to Walgett and DEG by Virginia Robinson. He was accompanied by Inspector David Checkley, also newly-arrived to Walgett. DEG members spoke of their hope for forging a new relationship with police in Walgett.



On 7 May 2018 Anne Dennis, President of the Walgett Local AECG, and Chair of the Walgett School Reference Group, met with DEG and invited the organisation to take a role on the Connected Community School Reference Group. This new opportunity has provided DEG with another way to influence NSW Education and work to improve the school's education outcomes.



Above: DEG established a firm relationship with Jessica Spencer of the Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit of NSW Health 12 October 2017. From that meeting we established a valuable ally in DEG's work to improve environmental health in Walgett. Below: DEG's Virginia Robinson was pleased to meet Literacy for Life's Chair Dr Pat Anderson OAM in September 2017.



Left: In February 2018 DEG's productivity made a giant leap. Darrell Burkey and Ian Urquart from our IT support crew LanId installed a new phone system and network server that was a donation from CASE Inc which unfortunately wound down at the end of June 2017. That is when they weren't playing with the toys that were donated by DEG member Tim Creighton during the year.





DEG's Kim Sullivan spoke early June 2018 at the NADA (Network of Alcohol And other Drugs) Conference <http://www.nadaconference.org.au/> in Sydney, with her colleague in the Western PHN's Aboriginal Hub project, Jacqueline Reid (Kim's counterpart in Parkes) and manager Norm Henderson. The team's program in Walgett was designed by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, but could only be funded by the current government through the Primary Health Network. Hopefully their good work will be expanded so that Kim will lead a large team to better support those in Walgett struggling with addiction and related mental health issues. DEG has invited this new program to share its location while it is in its early stages.

22 Sept 2017  
NSW Health  
Ailsa Graham  
visited DEG &  
PHN Aboriginal  
Hub to renew  
Sex Assault  
advice and  
arrange how her  
service will  
support Kim's  
work - important  
for drug &  
alcohol work.



## AOD work

Right: 2 March 2018  
Katrina Jeffery  
provided training to  
Western Aboriginal  
Hub staff in the use  
of encircle client  
management  
software today in  
Dubbo. Pictured are  
Katrina, Norm  
Henderson, Kim  
Sullivan, W.Spencer,  
Allan Bennett and  
Jacqueline Read.



Left: 11 April 2018 DEG staff undertook Drug & Alcohol First Aid training, provided by the Murdi Paaki Drug and Alcohol Network (MPDAN). The same network provided a 2-day training opportunity in mid-February 2018 in Dubbo (right). We discussed practice enhancements and made important contact with colleagues from around western NSW.







Below: our State Library partners visited August '17.

Above: Mangungaali (*Varanus Varius*) at BarwonWeir December 2017. Above right and far left: Episodes of our Elders Knowledge Sharing program May 2018. This program has been important to develop future knowledge-holders and workers for culture-led wellbeing community programs we hope will be delivered in Walgett when wellbeing is invested in.



Win Adam & Annelie de Villiers are archivists who made a big impression on DEG's archives October 2017. They were from the eScholarship Research Centre, Uni Melbourne (above & right). They had been recommended by DEG long-term partner archivist Kirsten Thorpe (above left), and the activity was funded by Dept. Prime Minister & Cabinet discretionary funds. We want to work with similar archivists improving the quality of our collection.

## Cultural heritage work





Left: 25 April 2018 DEG's Lewis Beale laid a wreath on behalf of Dharriwaa Elders Group to remember all Aboriginal men and women who have fought in wars, at Walgett's Anzac Day ceremony.

DEG's Clem Dodd and Richard Lake laid a wreath on behalf of the organisation earlier Anzac Day morning at the Sheepyards War Memorial ceremony.



## Honouring the past

Right: Fondly respected retired Walgett shopkeeper Tommy Johnsun assisted DEG to document Walgett's Chinese community heritage in October 2017. He is seen here explaining how gravestones from the Chinese community were cast from kerosene tins. Walgett's Chinese community heritage has been an interest of DEG's pursued in our Walgett Walking Track Interpretive sign series, with Tommy's help.



Over the June 2018 long weekend a DEG group travelled to honour the 180th anniversary of the Myall Creek Massacre, near Bingara. Our group included Richard Lake, Violet Morgan, Lewis Beale, Virginia Robinson, Riccardo Williams and Ricky Townsend. They attended the concert on Saturday, and the very moving memorial ceremonies on Sunday morning.







Above left: April 2018 DEG member Barry Simpson (Bow) and colleagues inspected Walgett's Marjorie Phyllis Walford Bridge using the NSW RMS "Under Bridge Inspection Unit". Above right: 29 April 2018 DEG's Richard Lake and Clem Dodd greeted the charity bike riders (Royal Far West 2018 Ride for Country Kids) and officiated at their official welcome. Some DEG members benefitted from holidays to Manly with this organisation when children.



## Fun too

Left: DEG's Raja Simpson entertained the Walgett Show for another year in May 2018.

Above: Elders enjoyed regular visits to the school garden and the Walgett AMS community gardens – usually on Wednesdays or Tuesdays. They are seen here visiting the school garden to keep updated on garden activities.